

DRAFT

BOARD OF LICENSURE OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS November 18, 2004 Meeting

Members Present:

Trevor Hunt (Chairman)
Teresa Trott
Chris Crovo
David Bartlett
Richard Moffitt
Carlton Gardner

Others Present:

Beth Pratte
Carol Champagne

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:20 A.M.

General Administration:

Meeting Minutes: The September 2004 minutes were accepted with two corrections.

New position on Board: Trevor Hunt introduced Richard Moffitt as a new appointee to the Board. Mr. Moffitt represents the VSWS class license.

<u>Financial:</u> Beginning 2004 Fiscal Year	\$34,941.77
Collected	27,084.00
Expenses	41,779.04
End of Fiscal Year	20,248.73

We have billed the ERG \$12,725 and that amount is not received yet.
There is an outstanding expenditure of \$16,340 for exams.

Exams: The Direct Entry (DE) exams gave a few problems with the distribution of the exams at the first use. The process was new and it will benefit the applicants now that we have a routine down.

The passing rate for the exams is as follows :

VSWS	47%	1 Distribution	67%
1 Treatment	67%	2 Distribution	38%
2 Treatment	32%	2 Distribution (DE)	86%
2 Treatment (DE)	57%	3 Distribution	25%
3 Treatment	33%	3 Distribution (DE)	100%
4 Treatment	11%	4 Distribution	15%
4 Treatment (DE)	60%	4 Distribution (DE)	25%

VSWS pass rate again low. This is of major concern. Terry Trott will contact ABC and ask for a question bank. The Board will construct an exam that will be more applicable to what Maine's needs are for the VSWS exam. There are factors that must remain to have validated exams. The target date will be for the April exam.

Renewals: 89 have responded and 377 renewals forms were sent out. There are still some TCH requests that need much attention and personal discussion to discern relevancy.

Old Business:

Rule Change Status: The Public Hearing was held at 161 Capitol Street, Augusta. At the hearing comments were received concerning the TCH requirements. There were no negative comments received on the education waiver or the policy concerning professionalism. Terry Trott will address each comment and respond to them with a letter.

The comment concerning the allowance of half the requirements to be elective subjects Terry felt was misunderstood. Presently fifty percent is accepted pertaining to safety and the remaining 50% is inferred to be technical the change would have allowed up to 50% to be safety, managerial or financial. Concern is that many operators do not need technical courses and should be allowed much of their requirement as managerial.

Terry has checked with Paul Gauvreau on direction for responding to comments and there are three options. 1) respond and make proposed changes as proposed, 2) respond and withdraw changes, 3) respond and make changes to proposal .

Terry will e-mail the Board for their comments on her answers to the comment letter for the State Guidelines.

The Board's responsibility is to make sure the operators are trained and licensed to protect public health.

Alan Frasier motioned that the purposed rule changes for THC's, and related definitions be taken out so existing language remains so the education waiver for VSWS restricted licenses and the addition of a right to maintain a procedure for accepting complaints can go through. And adopt the rules as purposed. Carlton Gardiner 2nd it. Motion passed.

Terry Trott motioned to address the comments issue. At this time we have removed the changes from the rules and they will be addressed later. Motion passed.

Chris Crovo motioned In order to address the proposed TCH changes the Board develop a sub committee to address policy procedure and guidance on Training Contact Hours. Richard Moffitt 2nd it. Motion passed.

The TCH sub committee consists of Chris Crovo, Alan Frasier, Carlton Gardner, and Richard Moffitt, and Beth Pratte.

The sub committee for the VSWs exam review consists of Richard Moffitt, Trevor Hunt, Lowell Martin and David Bartlett.

ERG Request for Proposals: Ten courses went out for continuing education. Eight of the courses were clear cut and came in with the highest scores. The proposals will be accepted and training organizations notified shortly.

All systems with less than 3,300 population will have their license renewal fee waived.

Grandparenting: 535 letters went out in August to systems that had a Designated Operator (DO). In October 143 violations went out to systems with no operator. An extension was given to ? systems. There are 73 outstanding systems now. Non compliance letters will go out in January.

Future TCH Reporting/Tracking: Terry Trott wants to track TCH's in house and will look into using the database that has been made for waste water tracking. The DWP is looking into a new Data Base with a cost of \$45,000 for water operators, well drillers and the program to use together.

Discussion continued from last meeting concerning the present TCH policy and the prorated system for persons taking exams part way through the renewal cycle. Several options were reviewed. Carlton Gardner motioned to have 3 TCH given for each exam passed. Motion passed

New Business: ABC Conference will be attended by a couple of the Board members. January 25, 2005 through January 28, 2005, in New Orleans.

The Board has been asked by ABC if they would like them to come and look at our program and if we would like a copy of their security questions. There is no cost to the Board for this.

The Board went into Special Session at 1:05 to discuss operator complaints. The session ended at 1:25.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.